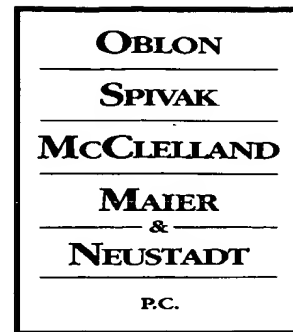




Docket No.: 212723US3

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/929,090
Applicants: Kenji OTSUKA, et al.
Filing Date: August 15, 2001
For: HARMFUL GAS PURIFYING COLUMN AND
METHOD
Group Art Unit: 1764
Examiner: TRAN, H.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of _____ is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

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Christopher D. Ward

Registration No. 41,367

212723US3



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Kenji OTSUKA, et al. : EXAMINER: TRAN, H.
SERIAL NO: 09/929,090 :
FILED: August 15, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1764
FOR: HARMFUL GAS PURIFYING COLUMN AND METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2003, Applicants elect with traverse the invention of group I, Claims 1-7, drawn to a column for purifying harmful gases.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

Application No: 09/929,090
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-9 be conducted.

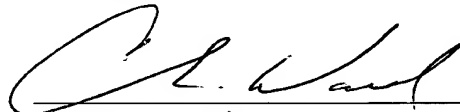
Customer Number

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Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

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